



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3D FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP  
21387 MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC  
UNIT 38401  
FPO AP 96604-8401

GrpO 1520.1B  
12/Surg  
23 AUG 7099

GROUP ORDER 1520.1B

From: Commanding General, 3d Force Service Support Group  
To: Distribution List

Subj: CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS, DENTAL  
OFFICERS AND INDEPENDENT DUTY CORPSMEN

Ref: (a) NAVMEDCOMINST 1520.10A  
(b) NAVMEDCOMINST 4651.1

1. Purpose. To establish a continuing education program that will meet the national accreditation standards of the medical and dental professions.

2. Cancellation. GrpO 1520.1A

3. Definition. Continuing education is planned learning experiences with specific educational objectives designed to augment knowledge, develop and update skills and maintain competence to ensure quality performance. Continuing education includes attendance at professional seminars and short courses offered by military or civilian institutions or associations incident to the specific improvement of professional or military skills in the performance of currently assigned duties.

4. Background

a. The quality of medical and dental care provided to the Navy and Marine Corps community depends upon the competence of our medical and dental officers and independent duty corpsmen. Continuing education are activities intended to improve and build upon the educational and experiential bases of the medical and dental officers and independent duty corpsman (IDC's), for the enhancement of their practice, educational or theory development to improve the health of the public, per references (a) and (b).

b. The demonstration of competence has progressed from an individual professional responsibility to increasingly mandated

requirements. These requirements range from programs leading to certification by professional organizations, to state and federal statutes regulating licensure.

c. With the rapid growth of medical and dental knowledge, advances in technology, medical and dental officers and IDC's must be given every opportunity to participate in quality continuing education programs.

#### 5. Action

a. The Group Surgeon will ensure that 3d Force Service Support Group (3d FSSG) Medical Officers and IDC's properly submit their applications to the Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS), Bethesda, Maryland via the Group Surgeon's Office. The Group Surgeon will be responsible for reviewing the continuing education applications to ensure that course dates do not conflict with operational commitments.

b. The 3d Dental Battalion (3d DenBn) Commanding Officer's responsibilities are similar to those of the Group Surgeon in relation to dental officers.

(1) The 3d DenBn Commanding Officer will request funding through NSHS for board certification examinations, quality assurance training and professional specialty society meetings that require attendance to maintain membership.

(2) For inter-theater, (Japan, Korea), continuing education and continuing education courses offered at the Naval Dental Center, San Diego, funding will be requested from NSHS. For professional leadership management courses, or when the course is a local command responsibility, funding will be requested from 3d FSSG, as part of 3d DenBn Annual temporary additional duty budget.

  
S. D. ANDERSON  
Chief of Staff

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